

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM USLO PEKING

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECSTATE WASHDC 1129

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF CONGEN AGRICULTURAL OFFICER TO PRC

REF: A) HONG KONG 12197; B) PEKING 1488

1. USLO NOTE TO MFA ON DECEMBER 12 REQUESTED VISA FOR CHAMPEAU AND INCLUDED FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH: QUOTE. MR. CHAMPEAU IS A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL ASSIGNED TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG. HIS IS COMING TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE LIAISON OFFICE AND PLANS TO DEPART HONG KONG ON JANUARY 4, 1974. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE HIS VISA. DURING HIS STAY IN PEKING, MR. CHAMPEAU WOULD LIKE TO PAY COURTESY CALLS ON THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. AFTER HIS CONSULTATIONS IN PEKING, MR. CHAMPEAU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE BRIEF STOPS AT ONE OR TWO OTHER CHINESE CITIES WHERE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO VISIT PEOPLE'S COMMUNES. UNQUOTE.

2. TO AVOID ANY SURPRISES, WE DECIDED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO ALERT THE MFA THAT CHAMPEAU HOPES TO SEE SOME PRC OFFICIALS AND TO MAKE SOME STOPS.

3. IN INTEREST, HOWEVER, OF NOT AGGRAVATING PRC SENSITIVITIES AND, HOPEFULLY, OF FACILITATING FUTURE VISITS BY CONGEN OFFICERS, WE THINK CHAMPEAU VISIT SHOULD BE CLOSER TO TWO RATHER THAN THREE WEEKS IN LENGTH. FOR THE TRIP OUTLINED IN

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PARA 3, REF B, WE ENVISION A TOTAL OF FOUR DAYS' TRAIN TRAVEL

COMING AND GOING, PLUS THREE DAYS AT EACH OF TWO STOPS EN ROUTE FROM PEKING TO HONG KONG, AND ABOUT FIVE DAYS IN PEKING. NEVERTHELESS, WE WHOULD LEAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY, AND WHEN CHAMPEAU ARRIVES IN PEKING WE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO WORK OUT DETAILS. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON TIME REQUIRED TO OBTAIN DESIRED APPOINTMENTS IN PEKING AND TO REQUEST APPROVAL FOR HIS STOPS IN OTHER CITIES. WE DID NOT, IN OUR NOTE TO THE MFA, INDICATE THE LENGTH OF CHAMPEAU'S VISIT.

4. AS WAY OF MAKING CLEAR AGRICULTURES'S INTEREST, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INFORM PRCLO OF CHAMPEAU'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PEKING.
BRUCE

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